

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A safety razor blade unit, comprising: a frame supporting a plurality of blades with parallel cutting edges; and a guard disposed in front of the cutting edges of the blades, the guard comprising a lubricating element for delivery of lubricant to the skin during shaving, and a backstop having an upper edge surface disposed to contact the skin during shaving between the blades and the lubricating element, wherein the skin contacting edge of the backstop is interrupted by one or more channels running from the lubricating element toward the blades to facilitate the passage of lubricant to the blades during shaving.
2. (Currently Amended) A blade unit according to claim 1, wherein the backstop includes a plurality of said channels separated by lands.
3. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 2, wherein the channels are not more than 3mm wide.
4. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 3, wherein the channels are at least as wide as the lands.
5. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 2, wherein the lands and channels are arranged alternately along the backstop at a uniform pitch.
6. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 1, wherein the channel depth is in the range of 0.1 to 2mm.
7. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 6, wherein the channel depth is in the range of 0.3 to 0.8mm.
8. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 7, wherein the channels have substantially upright side walls and a substantially flat bottom wall.
9. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 1, including an elastomeric strip disposed forwardly of the backstop.
10. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 9, wherein the lubricating element is disposed between the elastomeric strip and the backstop.
11. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 9, wherein the elastomeric strip has upstanding projections thereon.

12. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 11, wherein the upstanding projections are tubular with open ends.

13. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 12, wherein the tubes are D-shaped in cross section and oriented with their flat faces directed away from the backstop.

14. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 1, wherein the skin contacting edge surface of the backstop is defined by elastomeric material.

15. (Currently Amended) A blade unit according to claim 1, wherein the lubricating element is located immediately in front of the backstop and has an upper surface disposed at a level intermediate the bottoms of the channels and the ~~skin-contacting edge~~ upper surface of the backstop.

Claims 16-20 cancelled.

21. (Currently Amended) A blade unit according to claim 2, the guard further including an elastomeric strip disposed forwardly of the backstop.

22. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 21, wherein the lubricating element is disposed between the elastomeric strip and the backstop.

23. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 21, wherein the elastomeric strip has upstanding projections thereon.

24. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 23, wherein the upstanding projections are tubular with open ends.

25. (Previously Presented) A blade unit according to claim 24, wherein the tubes are D-shaped in cross section and oriented with their flat faces directed away from the backstop.